

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05752 021634Z

43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 NEA-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6945

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: ANTI-SEMITISM INCIDENTS IN ARGENTINA

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 5713, (B) STATE 21*5-

1. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF "THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL SOCIALIST FRONT" YESTERDAY (AUGUST 31) CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAST WEEK'S BOMB ATTACKS ON TWO SYNAGOGUES AND A JEWISH SHOP. IN A LETTER SENT TO NEWSPAPER OFFICES, THE GROUP ANNOUNCED IT HAD "DECLARED WAR" ON WHAT IT CALLED THE "JEWISH BBHLSHEVIK PLUTOCRACY" WHICH, IT CLAIMED WAS TO BLAME FOR ARGENTINA'S NATIONAL DISINTEGRATION. THIS PARTICULAR GROUP HAS NOT ADVERTISED ITS HAND IN OTHER RECENT ATTACKS ON JEWISH ESTABLISHMENTS, ALTHOUGH IT APPARENTLY CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN ATTACK ON A JEWISH WOMEN'S CENTER A YEAR AGO.

2. THE MONTH OF AUGUST SAW A CONSIDERABLE UPSURGE IN ANTI-JEWISH HARRASSMENT. A BOMB WAS DISCOVERED IN A JEWISH COMMUNITY TEMPLE IN BUENOS AIRES ON AUGUST 1, BUT WAS REMOVED BY POLICE BEFORE CAUSING DAMAGE. ON AUGUST 4 A JEWISH CREDIT COOPERATIVE AND A NUMBER OF JEWISH-OWNED SHOPS WERE SPRAYED WITH MACHINEGUN FIRE FROM A MOVING CAR. A BOMB EXPLODED IN A JEWISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE AUGUST 24 AND TWO SYNAGOGUES AND A JEWISH SHOP WERE ATTACKED AUGUST 27 (SEE REFTEL B). ON

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05752 021634Z

MONDAY (AUGUST 30) A JEWISH CLUB IN CORDOBA WAS SERIOUSLY

DAMAGED BY A BOMB EXPLOSION.

3. TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE GOA HAS SO FAR MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING TERRORIST ATTACKS DIRECTED AT JEWS OR OTHER MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-SEMITISM.

4. PRESIDENT OF DELEGATION OF ISRAELI-ARGENTINE ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA) TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT DAIA HAD CALLED ON FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF EDMUNDO OJEDA SEVERAL WEEKS AGO TO PROTEST THE POLIFERATION OF ANTI-JEWISH LITERATURE AND ATTACKS ON JEWISH ESTABLISHMENTS. ACCORDING TO SAME SOURCE, OJEDA ASSURED GROUP HE SAW NO DANGEROUS RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM AND PROMISED AMPLE POLICE PROTECTION. DAIA REP ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED A GOVT DECREE RESTRICTING OR BANNING NAZAI-TYPE LITERATURE WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

5. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT RECENTLY WITH BUENOS AIRES REPRESENTATIVES OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY AND ISRAELI EMBASSY COLLEAGUES WHO SAY THAT ALTHOUGH THE RECENT INCIDENTS ARE DISTURBING, THEY DO NOT YET CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE SITUATION CLOSELY AND WILL REPORT ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.
CHAPLIN

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL B AS RECEIVED.

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